

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON JUVENILE CORRECTIONS REFORM
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 9, 2005
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
Main Training Room
1616 West Adams
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Bill Brotherton
Collette Brumbaugh
Lt. Manny Cota
Terry Hance
Rob Lubitz
Donna Noriega
Judge Emmet Ronan
Beth Rosenberg
Alan Stephens
Cherie Townsend
Margaret Trujillo

MEMBERS ABSENT

Helene Abrams
Eric Benjamin
Nelba Chavez
Jan Flaaten
Tim Hardy
Pete Hershberger
Derrick Johnson
Paul Koehler
Willardene Lewis
David McKell
David Miller
Anna Montoya-Paez
Sherri Walton
Gilbert Veliz

STAFF

Michael Branham
Patti Cordova
Oly Cowles
Marcella Crane
John Dempsey
Peggy Eggemeyer
Pat Erickson
Lou Goodman
Megan McGlynn
Debra Peterson

GUESTS

Karen Abman
David Barnhouse
Barry Fine
Mary Lou Hanley
Essen Otu
Stacey Reinstein
Nicole Yancey

I. Welcome and Review of Minutes

Judge Emmet Ronan, Chair of the Governor's Task Force on Juvenile Corrections Reform, called the meeting to order.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 30, 2005 meeting. The minutes were then seconded and approved.

II. Juvenile Corrections Update

Director Michael Branham provided opening remarks and introduced Debra Peterson, ADJC's Assistant Director for Fiscal Services.

Debra provided the Task Force with a budget update regarding FY 2006 funded areas related to the CRIPA investigation and addressed the Task Force members questions regarding the budget.

Approximately an additional \$6.6 million dollars in new funding will allow ADJC to work further in coming into compliance in the following areas:

- **Line Staff Ratio** - \$1,824,700 for 49 FTE positions. This will provide a staff/youth ratio of 2-3-2 coverage for all shifts.
- **Continuous Case Planning** - \$1,256,600 for 27 FTE positions. These positions are the caseworker or YPO III. Coverage for a 24 bed unit will be funded with 3 FTE positions providing a caseworker to youth ratio of 1:8.
- **Nurse Coverage** - \$320,500 for 8 FTE positions. Nurse coverage will be provided for all shifts.
- **Education Compliance** - \$1,767,200 for 17 FTE positions. Teacher to student ratio will be 1:8 adding 16 FTE teacher positions. Also, an additional school psychologist has been funded.
- **Training** - \$772,100 for 9.5 positions. ADJC has been funded for \$440,150 for overtime associated with in-service training requirements. Also, an additional 9.5 academy cadet FTE positions has been funded.
- **Suicide Renovation** - \$733,700. This continues funding suicide renovation projects that were initiated in FY 2003. Specific housing units targeted includes Crossroads and Journey at Adobe Mountain School.
- **YCO Salary Increase** – A \$1,410 annual salary increase has been approved for Youth Correctional Officers (I's, II's, III's, Sergeants, Lieutenants, and Captains), Youth Program Officers (I's, II's, III's, and Supervisors), and Youth Parole Officers (I's, II's, III's, and Supervisors).

Patti Cordova stated Senator Karen Johnson 're-activated' an old committee on Family and Children Youth Services. They recently meet on June 8, 2005 to discuss Child Protective Services implementation of recommended changes. This committee will meet every two weeks and sunset in 2008.

Patti Cordova also provided the members of the Task Force with an update on the ABC News Primetime Live filming of several youth at both Adobe Mountain and Black Canyon Schools. The hour-long program is slated to air in early August. So far, the filming has gone fairly well, with the focus on youth changing their lives. The program will also feature interviews with their families. We are anticipating that the story will be fair and balanced. Additional details will be forthcoming to the Task Force.

III. Missouri Site Visit Update

Several Task Force members welcomed the opportunity to visit Missouri's Department of Social Services, Division of Youth Services in April. Director Mark Steward provided the group with an overview of what it took for the State of Missouri to change their juvenile justice system, leading to a national model for operating a juvenile correctional facility. Several Task Force members gave their initial impressions.

Rob Lubitz: A very eye-opening and challenged my notions about the best way to detain a youth. Was skeptical at first. It does not appear to look like an institution, more like a dormitory. Was impressed with a lot of the groups that are held and small living quarters of 10 youth or less.

Beth Rosenberg: A great experience. Visually it is so different than what is currently in Arizona. Staff does not wear uniforms so the feel is one that is not punitive. In Arizona money is spent on renovating old facilities; and in Missouri funding goes towards

treatment and programming for youth. Impressed that there was no grievance system in place as issues are addressed immediately. It seems to be working and the youth seem to be engaged and positive. How does Arizona comply with CRIPA and move towards this type of model?

Judge Emmet Ronan: The culture is very different. Suicide prevention is not a focus which was surprising, as programming and treatment in smaller settings is the focus. The bi-partisan advisory committee is very supportive towards this type of reform and towards long term sustainability, working in a collaborative manner with the Governor's Office and the Legislature.

Colette Brumbaugh: From a parent's perspective, youth seem to be more hopeful about their future, more positive about their experience.

Dianne Gadow: Youth are much more involved and respected. Small group settings/housing allows staff to do more individualized treatment sessions and allows for a positive culture. Youth take responsibility for their actions, staff must have a college education, youth ratio is 1:4. The annual budget is similar to ADJC's budget, and approximately 1200 youth are committed to their juvenile correctional facility.

IV. Case Study Review

Ongoing discussion continued about conducting a case study on states that have reformed their juvenile justice system. Director Branham is proposing to borrow a staff member from the Governor's Office on a part-time basis for compiling a report that will detail which states have undergone massive changes in their juvenile justice systems, who are the partners, what legislation was created, how much in resources are allocated and for what areas, what was the climate of the juvenile justice system in the past, what lead to the movement, and what barriers were addressed. It is anticipated that the report will be completed by early 2006.

Along with conducting a case study report, ADJC staff will proceed with moving forward on submitting in a Technical Assistance request for a consultant to do a one day strategic planning with the Task Force members. Further information on this will be sent to the Task Force members as it becomes available.

V. Sub-committee Update

No updates were provided.

VI. Public Comment

No public comment was made at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Judge Emmet Ronan, Chair.

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